

## REMARKS

Claims 1-58 and 89-92 are pending. Claims 59-88 were withdrawn from consideration in an election. A final Office Action was mailed on August 15, 2006, and a Response to the August 15 Office Action was filed on November 13, 2006. In an advisory Office Action mailed December 14, 2006, claims 1-14, 16-58 and 89-92 were allowed over the prior art of record. Claim 15 was rejected and is amended herein to overcome the rejection. The December 14 Office Action states that claim amendments are "necessary to correct matters of form, diction, and minor informalities," but the required amendments were not noted. Applicants found a minor informality in claim 53, which is amended herein for correction. A Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114, a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time and a check for the fees for both are filed herewith. Applicants understand that the November 13 Response will be entered and the present amendments will be considered. A Change of Correspondence Address has been filed separately.

### Claim 15

Independent claim 15 was rejected as anticipated by and/or obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,531,547, issued to Visger et al. ("Visger"). Visger describes a "process comprising the steps, (a) polymerizing . . . at least one vinyl aromatic monomer to prepare a stabilized active polymer block . . . ; (b) adding at least one acrylic monomer . . . to the mixture of residual vinyl aromatic monomer and stabilized active polymer block of (a); and (c) further reacting the mixture of (b) using a free radical process to effect copolymerization of said monomers." Visger, column 3, lines 47-63. Visger employs a first step for "polymerizing . . . at least one vinyl aromatic monomer to prepare a stabilized active polymer block" and a second step for "adding at least one acrylic monomer . . . to the mixture of residual vinyl aromatic monomer and stabilized active polymer block." In one embodiment, Visger describes making a homopolymer of polystyrene as a first block and a copolymer of styrene and acrylic monomers as a second block.

Claim 15 was amended in the November 13 Response to replace the open-ended transition "comprising" with "consisting essentially of," which addressed the examiner's concern that "the term comprising in the claims does not exclude unrecited steps" expressed in paragraph 7 of the August 15 Office Action. Claim 15 is amended herein to recite that the block polymer

formed in the process claimed in claim 15 "comprises a first block that is a copolymer of the styrene and the unsaturated cyclic anhydride and a second block of polystyrene formed after the unsaturated cyclic anhydride is essentially depleted."

Thus, claim 15 is directed to a process that first makes a block of a copolymer of styrene and unsaturated cyclic anhydride and then a second block of polystyrene, which is opposite of Visger because Visger first makes a block of polystyrene and then a copolymer as a second block. Applicants respectfully contend that claim 15 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Visger because the order of formation of blocks is opposite and there is no teaching or suggestion in Visger to form a block copolymer according to the process claimed in claim 15.

### **Claim 53**

Claim 53 was amended to change "200.degree.C. in steps" to "200 degrees C in steps" because there was an error in printing the symbol for degrees.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims put the pending claims in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 9, 2007

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